

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00
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O R 021705Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0059
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3366

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP
SUBJECT: SUAREZ TO SPEAK TONIGHT OR TOMORROW

1. SUAREZ' SPEECH IS BEING TAPED AT WRITING BUT IT HAS NOT
BEEN ANNOUNCED WHETHER IT WILL BE TELECAST TONIGHT OR
TOMORROW. HE WILL DISCUSS BRIEFLY HIS RECENT TRIP TO
MEXICO AND THE U.S., BUT WILL DEVOTE MOST OF HIS REMARKS
TO HIS DECISION, WHICH SEEMS CERTAIN, TO RUN
FOR A LOWER HOUSE SEAT. WE UNDERSTAND HE IS ENGAGED IN LAST
MINUTE CONSULTATIONS ABOUT THE MANNER OF HIS RUNNING (AND
PERHAPS ONE LAST ATTEMPT TO BRING CENTROL DEMOCRATICO AND
THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS OF RUIZ GIMENEX/GIL ROBLES TOGETHER) BUT
JUDGE THAT HE WILL PROBABLY RUN FROM MADRID AT THE HEAD OF A
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LIST. WHETHER THAT LIST WILL BE LABELED "CENTRO DEMOCRATICO"
OR "INDEPENDENT" IS NOT CLEAR BUT REGARDLESS OF HOW IT
IS LABELED IT WILL CERTAINLY INCLUDE A GOODLY ELEMENT
OF CENTRO DEMOCRATICO FIGURES, THOUGH SOME OF THE
MORE CONTROVERSIAL PARTIDO POPULAR FIGURES SUCH AS PIO
CABANILLAS MAY RUN ELSEWHERE.

2. IN THE MEANTIME, MOST POLITICAL ACTORS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR SUAREZ' PRECISE FORMULATION BEFORE THEY MAKE THEIR LAST MOVES IN TERMS OF COALITION BUILDING (ELECTORAL COALITIONS MUST BE REGISTERED BY MIDNIGHT TUESDAY, MAY 3 AND CANDIDATE LISTS IN THE VARIOUS PROVINCES SUBMITTED PRIOR TO SUNDAY, MAY 8 AT MIDNIGHT). AN EDITORIAL IN ALIANZA POPULAR-LINING "ABC" BACKED AWAY FROM OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION TO A SUAREZ CANDIDACY BUT EXPRESSED "MODERATE" PREOCCUPATION. BUT IN THE SAME PAPER AP SPOKESMAN AND "ABC" NOTABLE LUCA DETENA CLAIMED IT WAS ILLEGAL FOR SUAREZ TO RUN, DRAWING ON THE DICTINARY DEFINITION OF "MINISTER".

3. APPARENTLY, AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN CENTRO DEMOCRATICO AND THE RUIZ GIMENEZ/GIL ROBLES CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ON ALLIANCES IN 11 PROVINCES ALONG THE LINES OF THE FORMULA LONG ADVOCATED BY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. RUIZ GIMENEZ HAS INDICATED THAT A BROADER ALLIANCE MIGHT BE POSSIBLY WERE THE CENTROL DEMOCRATICO DISSOLVED, MAKING CLEAR, ONCE AGAIN, THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS INTEND TO PRESERVE THEIR IDENTITY. THERE HAS BEEN SOME CRITICISM IN THE PRESS OF THE ALLEGED ROLE OF SECOND VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT OSORIO IN ATTEMPTING TO MANIPULATE THE CENTRO DEMOCRATICO LISTS IN FAVOR OF SOME OF HIS OLD COLLEAGUES FROM THE CONSERVATIVE UDE WHO ARE NOW INCORPORATED IN THE OTHER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP LED BY ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA.

4. ON THE LEFT THE SMALL SOCIALIST GROUP OF TIERNO
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GALVAN (THE PSP) AND SOME OF THE REMNANTS OF THE FEDERATION OF SOCIALIST PARTIES (FPS), THE TROUBLED ALLIANCE OF MINI-REGIONAL GROUPINGS OF SOCIALIST PERSUASION, REACHED INITIAL AGREEMENT TO RUN TOGETHER IN THE ELECTIONS BUT THE SUM OF THEIR VOTES IS NOT LIKELY TO BE LARGE. THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PSP WILL GET TOGETHER WITH FELIPE GONZALEZ' PSOE SEEMS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT. IN TURN, THE PSOE HAS ABSORBED THE IMPORTANT MADRID FEDERATION OF THE FPS AND IN BARCELONA PROBABLY WILL PRESENT ITS JOINT LIST WITH THE CATALAN SOCIALIST GROUPING (PSC-C) THAT ONCE BELONGED TO THE FPS.

5. SENTATE CANDIDACIES HAVE TAKEN SECOND FIDDLE TO COALITION BUILDING EFFORTS IN THE LOWER HOUSE, AND THE OUTLOOK IS EVEN LESS CLEAR THERE. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAVE PLUMPED FOR A BROAD ALLIANCE OF CENTRIST GROUPINGS ON THROUGH THE PSOE (WITH THE WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT COMMUNIST BACKING BUT RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT PCE CANDIDATES) IN ORDER TO FIGHT BACK THE ALIANZA POPULAR'S PRESUMED STRENGTH PARTICULARLY IN THE SMALLER

PROVINCES, SINCE EACH HAS FOUR SENATORS, REGARDLESS
OF ITS SIZE. BUT MANY IN THE CENTRO DEMOCRATICO ARE
APPARENTLY UNWILLING TO INCLUDE THE PSOE (AS "MARXIST")
IN THIS BROAD SENATE ALLIANCE, AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMO-
CRATS' DESIRE TO DO SO MAY IN FACT BE A STUMBLING BLOCK
TO UNITY EFFORTS IN THE CENTER.EATON

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